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- an anchor device engaged with the wellbore at a selected location;
  - a vibratory source at a surface location coupled to the anchor causing the anchor to impart seismic energy into the formation; and
  - a control unit for control of the vibratory source and for determining a subsurface characteristic of the formation from detection of said seismic energy imparted into the formation.
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9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit includes a computer.

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10. (First Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit controls frequency of vibration in the vibratory source in response to the sensed parameter of interest.

11. (First Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the control unit controls frequency of vibration in accordance with programmed instructions provided to the control unit.

12. (First Amended) A system for obtaining seismic data relating to a formation, comprising:

- an anchor device engaged with a wellbore at a selected location;
  - a vibratory source at a surface location coupled to the anchor causing the anchor to induce seismic energy into the formation; and
  - at least one detector placed spaced-apart from the anchor, to detect seismic signals responsive to seismic energy imparted in the formation by the anchor.
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17. (First Amended) The system of claim 13, wherein said control unit processes the signals detected by at least one detector.

18. (First Amended) A method for inducing seismic energy in a formation penetrated by a wellbore, comprising:

- coupling a tubular string between a downhole anchor and a surface vibratory source;
- vibrating the tubing string to generate a seismic wave in the formation at the anchor; and
- determining a subsurface characteristic of the formation from detection of said seismic energy imparted into the formation.

20. (First Amended) The method of claim 19 further comprising controlling frequency of operation of the vibratory source with a control unit, said control unit having a processor acting according to programmed instructions, said control unit controlling the frequency of the vibratory source in response to the sensed parameters of interest.

23. (First Amended) A method for obtaining seismic data, comprising:

- engaging an anchor in a wellbore in a subsurface formation at a selected downhole location;
- coupling the anchor to a surface located vibratory source;
- energizing the vibratory source to impart seismic energy through the anchor to the formation;

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- sensing the seismic energy by at least one detector spaced-apart from the anchor; and
  - determining a subsurface characteristic of the formation from detection of said seismic energy imparted into the formation.
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25. (First Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising controlling the vibratory source with a control unit in response to signals sensed by the at least one detector.

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